

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A two-stage phasing plug assembly, comprising:
  - a first phasing plug having a rear side and a first intermediate side;
  - a first plurality of slot openings between the rear and first intermediate sides of the first phasing plug;
  - a second phasing plug having a second intermediate side and a front side;
  - a second plurality of slot openings between the second intermediate and front sides of the second phasing plug;
  - the second intermediate side of the second phasing plug adapted to associate with the first intermediate side of the first phasing plug; and
  - wherein the first plurality of slot openings on the first intermediate side of the first phasing plug is juxtaposed to the second plurality of slot openings on the second intermediate side of the second phasing plug to form a plurality of continuous air passages from the rear side of the first phasing plug to the front side of the second phasing plug.